

in 1906 to its current location along the Soo Line Railroad. Columbus was named for its second postmaster, Columbus Larson, and it is thought to be the only place named Columbus in the United States that is not named for the famous explorer, Christopher Columbus.

Today, Columbus is a great place for hunting, fishing, and other outdoor activities. Its location near Short Creek Dam adds to the beauty of its landscape and attracts all types of visitors, from the serious outdoorsmen to recreational golfers. Short Creek Dam is a sportsman's dream, with its abundant fish population and quiet seclusion. Columbus is also home to the Oilmen's Golf Tournament, which draws players from around the area.

Columbus is a close-knit community that values togetherness and cooperation. Community members work together to ensure Columbus remains a wonderful place to live and work. The residents of Columbus have many wonderful activities planned to celebrate their 100th anniversary, including parades, a talent show, open golf, games, a street dance, and much more.

Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Columbus, ND, and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Columbus and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Columbus that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Columbus has a proud past and a bright future.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF RYDER, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I wish today to recognize a community in North Dakota that will be celebrating its 100th anniversary. On July 7 to 9, the residents of Ryder will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Ryder holds an important place in North Dakota's history. Originally, the town chose Centerville as its name, but the post office said that name was already taken. The town was eventually named "Ryder" because of Arthur R. Ryder, who lent his coat to the local postal official. To thank Mr. Ryder for his generosity, the postal official named the town after him. Many new businesses started to emerge in Ryder after its founding, including banks, hardware stores, general stores, livery barns, hotels, restaurants, grain elevators, a blacksmith shop, a photograph gallery, and three churches.

Today, Ryder is a vibrant community. The people of Ryder are very proud of their community, and they have a strong sense of camaraderie. Ryder is actively involved in creating new ideas for preserving the town that

is so dearly loved by the entire community. Ryder is planning 3 fun-filled days to celebrate its centennial, which will be enjoyed by people of all ages. Activities include dedication of a wall honoring the veterans of Ryder, a magic show, a street dance, and baseball games.

Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Ryder, ND, and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Ryder and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Ryder that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Ryder has a proud past and a bright future.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PLAZA, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I wish to honor a community in North Dakota that is celebrating its 100th anniversary. On July 20 to 23, the residents of Plaza, ND, will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Plaza is a small town in northwest North Dakota. Despite its small size, Plaza holds an important place in North Dakota's history. Plaza was founded on July 20, 1906, on the Soo Line Railroad and was named to note the central plaza within the business district. The first train arrived in Plaza on December 6, 1906. Plaza was incorporated as a village in 1910 and as a city in 1951, with Roy Sandstrom elected as its first mayor. Among the town's residents were Walter J. Maddock, who served as Governor of North Dakota from 1928 to 1929.

Today, Plaza remains a small, pleasant agricultural town. Residents of the town gather at the hardware store and cafe, watch their children play at the baseball field, or work together at the local farmer's union chapter.

The community has many activities planned for its 4-day celebration. On Thursday, the celebration kicks off with train shuttle rides, a raffle, and several activities in the townhall. Friday highlights including a children's rodeo, a volleyball tournament, and a school alumni social. A parade, softball tournament, and fireworks display are among several of weekend activities. Historical tours of the town will also take place throughout the 4 days of celebration.

Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Plaza, ND, and its residents on their first 100 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Plaza and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the pioneering tradition spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Plaza that have helped to shape this country into

what it is today, which is why Plaza is deserving of our recognition.

Plaza has a proud past and a bright future.●

JOHN GONSALVES RECEIVES DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION MEDAL OF HONOR

● Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the winner of the Daughters of the American Revolution Medal of Honor Award, Mr. John Gonsalves of Taunton, MA. Mr. Gonsalves was nominated by the members of the Molly Stark Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, DAR, in Manchester, NH, to receive this national award.

In the wake of September 11, Mr. Gonsalves was left, like many Americans, with the insatiable desire to do something to help those intimately affected by the tragedy. He was particularly struck by those who have made extraordinary sacrifices on the front lines in the military operations that have followed the September 11 attacks, our wounded soldiers.

Upon seeing these injured soldiers in news reports, Mr. Gonsalves was determined to use his lifelong trade to help these wounded heroes. Having worked extensively in the construction field throughout the last 20 years, he gained expertise in all phases of the construction process, business management, and OSHA safety standards. He started Homes For Our Troops—a nonprofit organization that builds and refits homes across the country for veterans wounded while serving in the Middle East. Mr. Gonsalves has pledged to build these specially adapted residences for our wounded soldiers so long as the need exists at no cost to them.

The brave men and women who put their lives at risk every day to protect our country need to know that their fellow citizens appreciate their sacrifices and will support them long after they return home from the front lines. Mr. Gonsalves' work promotes an extremely noble cause which ensures that our wounded troops, who have worked extraordinarily hard to protect our Nation, have the opportunity to find suitable housing when they return home.

Mr. Gonsalves has shown tremendous qualities of leadership, service, and patriotism by selflessly dedicating himself to a cause that serves a greater purpose and aids those who have sacrificed for our country, and he is certainly deserving of the DAR Medal of Honor Award. I congratulate him on his recognition and commend him for his service to the military community and the positive effects his organization has for our country and especially on our wounded soldiers.●

● Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I also wish to recognize John Gonsalves, a Taunton, MA, resident whose selfless work to improve the lives of troops returning home from battle will be honored with the Daughters of the American Revolution's, DAR, Medal of

Honor Award. Members of the Molly Stark Chapter of the DAR in Manchester, NH, nominated him to receive this distinction.

John was one of millions of Americans who, in the aftermath of the September 11 terrorist attacks, wanted to serve his Nation and fellow countrymen. Having worked extensively in different phases of the construction industry, he sought an opportunity to give back by helping wounded soldiers return to home life.

Unable to find an existing organization that would allow him to volunteer his construction and homebuilding skills, John took action and founded a nonprofit organization that would—Homes for Our Troops. The group, which is based in Taunton, works to build or adapt residences across the country for injured veterans at no cost to these individuals.

American soldiers have left the comfort of home for the perils of faraway battlefields to protect our country and to spread freedom in the world. It is critical that these brave men and women know that their fellow citizens support them—and will continue to do so long after their active duty service is over. John's work to establish Homes for Our Troops helps represent a solemn promise: that the American people will neither forget, nor cease to be grateful, for the courage of our heroic soldiers.

By returning seriously injured veterans to the normalcy of home life as quickly as possible, we honor their enormous sacrifices for our country. Homes for Our Troops performs an invaluable role in this national effort, coordinating donations of money, labor and materials to ensure that seriously injured veterans' homes are handicapped accessible. This work, which contributes conspicuously to the quality of life for severely wounded soldiers, represents the best of the American spirit.

John Gonsalves' patriotism sets an example for all Americans. I join his friends, supporters and members of the DAR's Molly Stark Chapter in commending his praiseworthy efforts on behalf of our veterans, and congratulate him on being selected to receive this prestigious award.●

KATHLEEN MIRABILE RECEIVES OUTSTANDING TEACHER OF AMERICAN HISTORY AWARD

● Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize and commend an outstanding teacher from New Hampshire, Kathleen Mirabile, winner of the Daughters of the American Revolution, DAR, Outstanding Teacher of American History Award.

Mrs. Mirabile has dedicated the past 45 years to teaching Social Studies and U.S. History in two public high schools in Manchester, NH. She continues to share her in-depth understanding of the democratic system of government in our country with students every year.

Throughout her 45 years in the Manchester school system, she has come to intimately understand and personify the concept of living history as she has opened students' minds to endless possibilities. She subscribes to the theory that in order to be loyal to our country today, one must be keenly aware of the history that has shaped the extraordinary foundation upon which our country and our government were built. She has made it her goal to ensure students understand the impact that history has on them today and, conversely, the impact that today will have on history.

Entrenched in her belief that every citizen ought to be a student of U.S. history, Mrs. Mirabile has remained a student throughout her entire teaching career—completing graduate studies at the University of New Hampshire and Boston College, as well as participating in countless educational conferences, institutes, and fellowship programs ranging from the National Endowment for the Humanities to Harvard University, allowing her to further her own education as a student while simultaneously enriching her teaching knowledge.

Mrs. Mirabile has taken her passion for history outside of the classroom and required school hours. Beyond her role as a teacher in the high school classroom, Mrs. Mirabile has shared her time and her life with members of the Granite State community by participating and assuming important leadership and advisory roles in numerous educational societies, extracurricular activities, and professional organizations, furthering her own development and gaining the respect and friendship of her students and peers alike.

Teachers like Mrs. Mirabile exemplify the greatest asset in the educational system in our country—dedicated and devoted teachers who take tremendous pride in preparing generations of students to participate in the American dream. Her commitment to her students and the entire community serves as a great role model for everyone around her, and she certainly is deserving of the DAR Outstanding Teacher of American History Award. I congratulate her on this recognition and commend her for her excellence in teaching and the overwhelmingly positive effect she has had on her students and her community.●

● Mr. SUNUNU. Mr. President, I also wish to recognize an outstanding teacher from New Hampshire who will be honored next month with the Daughters of the American Revolution's, DAR, Outstanding Teacher of American History Award.

Kathleen Mirabile has taught history and social studies in Manchester, New Hampshire's public schools for nearly four decades. Through her strong commitment to lifelong learning, Mrs. Mirabile has inspired generations of students in the Queen City. Having contributed conspicuously to the life of

her community, Mrs. Mirabile has earned the respect of her peers and students—which is reflected in her nomination by the DAR's Molly Stark Chapter in Manchester to receive this prestigious national award.

A democratic nation such as ours requires informed, active citizens who are able to think critically about complex issues. Knowledge and understanding of American history is therefore essential to ensuring a thoughtful citizenry that is capable of the responsibility of self-government. During her long service as a teacher, at Manchester High School Central and Manchester Memorial High School, Mrs. Mirabile has worked to convey these enduring truths as part of her classroom instruction.

Mindful of the necessity of being prepared to compete in today's society, Mrs. Mirabile has set high standards for her students. Although she has taught students who represent a range of academic ability—including those in her advanced placement U.S. history course—Mrs. Mirabile has consistently pushed them to achieve beyond their limits. In doing so, she has helped her students to mature as learners and as individuals.

A central component of Mrs. Mirabile's approach to teaching—one that distinguishes her—has been to remain a student of history herself. As part of that commitment, she completed graduate studies at the University of New Hampshire and at Boston College; additionally, Mrs. Mirabile has pursued study through the National Endowment for the Humanities, the U.S. Department of Education, and at Harvard University. These experiences have broadened her knowledge, and have helped to make her a more thoughtful, engaging teacher.

Mrs. Mirabile also brings her extensive experience working with the Manchester Historic Association, MHA, to the classroom. Manchester, which was home to the world famous Amoskeag Mills, is a city that is rich in history and culture. As an MHA leader, Mrs. Mirabile has taken her intimate knowledge of Manchester and made the City a history classroom for her students. Through such hands-on learning, Mrs. Mirabile's students are shown that history lessons are not confined to text books; that history is alive in our communities.

Having distinguished herself as a talented and committed educator who has made a difference in the lives of her students, Mrs. Mirabile has set a standard to which other teachers may aspire. I am pleased to join her many friends and admirers—at Central High School, in the city of Manchester, and with the Molly Stark Chapter—in extending congratulations to her for being honored by the DAR for a long career of excellence in teaching.●